Sale of C-130J Super Hercules Military Transport Aircraft to India

2060. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US is aggressively hawking the C-130J Super Hercules military transport aircraft to India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the American delegations have held several meetings with the Indian Air Force officials in the recent past to push for the multi-million dollar contract for the C-130J; and

(c) if so, Government's response thereto and the action proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Available information do not suggest about USA aggressively hawking the C-130J Super Hercules military transport aircraft to India.

(b) Generalised presentations were made by a manufacturer of USA to the Air headquarters regarding the features of the aircraft.

(c) There is no proposal currently under consideration of the Government for the procurement of C-130J aircraft.

Withdrawal of troops from Siachen

†2061. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the move to withdraw the troops deployed in Jammu and Kashmir to certain extent will be enforced in Siachen Glacier also, if so, the extent of troops to be withdrawn from Siachen;

(b) whether Pakistan Government has sent a proposal for withdrawal of troops from Siachen to the Government of India, if so, the reaction of Government of India thereto; and

(c) whether Government of India are of the view that India's security interests would be affected by withdrawal of troops from Siachen, if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There is no move to withdraw troops from the Siachen Glacier.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The Defence Secretaries of India and Pakistan held talks in New Delhi on 5-6 August, 2004 on the Siachen Glacier, within the framework of the Composite Dialogue. During the meeting, modalities for disengagement and redeployment of troops were discussed. The two sides agreed to continue discussions.

The External Affairs Ministers of India and Pakistan met in New Delhi on September 5-6, 2004 to review the status of the Composite Dialogue. During the meeting, both sides agreed that, on Siachen Glacier, the outcome of the meeting of the Defence Secretaries in August, 2004 would be implemented.

(c) The security situation is dynamic and is reviewed periodically. No compromise will be made on security related matters and plans are in place to cater for all possible operational contingencies.

Effect of withdrawal of Indian troops on Pakistan Army

†2062. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in response to Indian action of withdrawal of army from Jammu and Kashmir has any effect on Pakistani army;

(b) whether Indian army has received any proposal from Government of Pakistan to visit Pakistan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any proposal is under consideration of Government of India to invite a group of Pakistani soldiers to visit India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There are no inputs to indicate any effect on Pakistan Army in response to the withdrawal of Army from Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) India has put forth proposals to develop links and exchange of visits between the Armed forces but there has been no response from Pakistan's side, so far.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.